

dragged along for years. The case just naturally went by the board when the new state (W. Va.) went democratic in 1870, a new constitution adopted, and the rights of southern sympathizers restored. Captain Stofer was defended by Arthur Dayton. Mr. Dayton also successfully defended many other Confederate soldiers who were indicted for murder after the Civil War in Pocahontas County.

Pocahontas Times -- July 9, 1931.

They talk about the days of Reconstruction as being trying times. In my opinion the days of reconstruction dating from 1867 to the Reconstruction Act were not half so perilous to the continuance of the country as the two years from 1865-1867.

Here on the home farm, five sons showed up in 1865, and one had perished in the war. The instant need of things were rail fences, live stock, and a crop of corn. Like most soldiers all they asked or hoped for was a chance to get to work again. Instead they felt that they were under the shadow of serving time in prison for treason.

From- Pocahontas Times- Jan 16, 1930
By, Calvin Price. He has reference to the Price family - his father and five uncles.

In many families none of the sons returned as was the case in the Poage family. They sent two sons into the service, both were killed. From the Cooper family there were five sons enlisted. Two, George and Robert were killed. James lost an arm and the other two were wounded. Their names were John and Charles. And so it was with so many of the families.

Price History.

The new state was formed while a large number of the county militias were in the southern army. These "Rebels" represented, to a large extent, the landed property owners of Pocahontas county. When these returned from their service, it was to find much of their property demolished, their confederate money worthless, and in 1866 they were deprived of their right of vote.

In 1870 those persons who had been disfranchised were again given the privilege to vote, and the old County Court was reestablished as it had existed prior to 1863.

From - Index to Records of Poca County

In Pearl Buck's Book "The Exile" which is a story of her mother Caroline Stulting who lived at Hillsboro, she tells many things that happened in that vicinity during the Civil War. The Stultings were surrounded by slave owning families, yet they had been taught to have a horror of owning human beings, and since they owned no slaves felt they had no right of fight. Yet they were to loyal to Virginia to fight against her and so declared themselves neutral. This of course did not make them popular and there was some threatening murmur against them. Yet none of their neighbors came out openly against them. However there came a day when a band of southern soldiers came for the son Cornelius, who was an able bodied young man. When he refused to go they undertook to force him to go. They got him on a horse, but his mother clung to his leg and refused to let go. They were thus forced to let him go. He went to a cabin on Droop Mountain and for the two remaining years of the war lived there alone. He raised food and took it to his family at night. Therefore when the Little Levels was swept by the passing southern armies, when fields ere devastated and barns and stores robbed, the Stultings had food.

Then there was the dreadful day when north and south met in the battle of Droop Mountain. Cornelius was forced to hide in a cave that day and when night came made his way home his clothes torn and his hands and bare legs badly scratched. But his little field was ruined by cannon balls.

She tells how for a short time after the slaves were freed, they hardly dared to stir abroad, and that Cornelius had to join th Ku Klux Klan for a while to get the freed slaves to let them alone. (So far I have not been able to find any reference to the K.K.K. in any other writings, but most of the slaves were in the Little Levels and they perhaps had an organization for a short time.)

She tells that the armies at first were gay and assured, then shaken and surprised, then vegeful and desperate, and at last despairing and vanquished. yet more dreadful than these were the armies of the victors, sweeping triumphant over the fertile fields, devistating conquerors.

When defeat was accepted, a fever to begin life was everywhere present. During these four years there had been no school as the men had been fighting and the women striving to keep the home together. Therefore, there had been no time to think of education, There were no shops nothing to be bought everything had to be produced at home.

From- The Exile - Buck.

Mr Paul H. Becker

I am sending you a list of the Old Soldiers of the Civil War I have been very careful in making up this list of the Companies , this is a record that is hard to find , in fact part of it is not in the records perfectly as I have it written up . One of the old Soldiers of Pocahontas kept a Diary ^{of} the Company "G " which he had printed a few years ago. And many of the facts that he had secured in his record are not in the Archives . And a few of the facts of the Records in the Archives mention a few things the Diary of the Old Soldier dont have .

By placing the two together they will coincide perfectly with the U.S. History This Roster of the Company "G" of the 31st Virginia Regiment is as near Authentic as any person of this generation can make it.

I hope that ^{these} this list of Companies will be printed as carefully as possible The Daughters of the Confederacy and of the Union , look to such records as the foundation of their Organizations .

Rosevelt W Brown

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